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Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary
Legal Affairs Division

Revision to the Water Quality Management Plan
Volume 3: Permitting Guidance Document for Implementing Louisiana Surface Water Quality
Standards
(0612Pot2)

Under the authority of the Environmental Quality Act, R.S. 30:2071 et seq., the secretary gives notice that procedures have been initiated to amend Volume 3 of the Louisiana Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP).

Federal law governing water quality standards (Water Quality Act of 1987 PL 100-4 Section 303 (c)) requires that states review and revise as appropriate their water quality standards at least once every three years. The *Permitting Guidance Document for Implementing Louisiana Surface Water Quality Standards*, as part of the Louisiana Water Quality Management Plan, establishes procedures to effectively implement Louisiana's water quality standards into LPDES surface water discharge permits. The most recent Triennial Revision of the Water Quality Standards (Log #WQ054) proposes an updated method for the application of toxic and metals criteria in estuarine areas. These revisions are found in LAC 33:IX.1105 (definitions), LAC 33:IX.1113.C.6.b, and LAC 33:IX.1113.C.6.d. Therefore, the Water Quality Management Plan, Volume 3, Section 5, is proposed to be revised accordingly. The proposed rule for the Triennial Revision (Log #WQ054) is published in the Notice of Intent section of the December 20, 2006, *Louisiana Register*.

A public hearing on the Water Quality Management Plan revision will be held on January 24, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in the Galvez Building, Room 1051, 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Interested persons are invited to attend and submit oral comments on the substantive changes. Should individuals with a disability need an accommodation in order to participate, contact Kimberly Cornelison at the address given below or at (225) 219-3598. Parking in the Galvez Garage is free with a validated parking ticket.

Written comments regarding the proposed revision must be received no later than February 15, 2007, at 4:30 p.m., and should be sent to Kimberly Cornelison, Office of the Environmental Assessment, Water Quality Assessment Division, Box 4314, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314 or to FAX (225) 219-3582 or by e-mail to kimberly.cornelison@la.gov. Copies of this proposed revision can be purchased by contacting the DEQ Public Records Center at (225) 219-3168. Check or money order is required in advance for each copy. This revision is available on the Internet at www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/1669/default.aspx.

This revision is available for inspection at the following DEQ office locations from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.: 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; 1823 Highway 546, West Monroe, LA 71292; State Office Building, 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101; 1301 Gadwall Street, Lake Charles, LA 70615; 111 New Center Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508; 110 Barataria Street, Lockport, LA 70374; 645 N. Lotus Drive, Suite C, Mandeville, LA 70471.

Herman Robinson, CPM
Executive Counsel

Changes to Volume 3 of the Water Quality Management Plan
Permitting Guidance Document for Implementing Louisiana Surface Water Quality Standards

For Section 5, added language is underlined and omitted language is indicated by ~~striketrough~~.

Louisiana Water Quality Management Plan
Volume 3
Permitting Guidance Document for Implementing Louisiana Surface Water Quality Standards

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5. Establishing Permit Limits

DEQ will require water quality based limits for pollutants that are present in the discharge as determined by appropriate sampling or are involved in the manufacturing process. The Office will consider effluent variability in the derivation of permit limits using EPA's Technical Support Document¹ (TSD) procedures.

A. Limit Derivation

This derivation process applies to all pollutants where chronic aquatic life are to be met at the edge of the mixing zone (MZ), acute aquatic life criteria are to be met at the edge of the zone of initial dilution (ZID), and human health criteria are to be met below the point of discharge after complete mixing (LAC 33:IX.1115.C). Freshwater aquatic criteria will be used for waters with average ambient salinity less than 2,000 parts per million (ppm) ~~(LAC 33:IX.1121.B.3.b.iii.(a))~~. Marine aquatic criteria will be used for waters with average ambient salinity greater than or equal to 102,000 ppm ~~(LAC 33:IX.1121.B.3.b.iii.(b))~~. In areas of brackish water (defined in LAC 33:IX.1105), the applicable criteria are the more stringent of the freshwater or marine criteria, as described in LAC 33:IX.1113.C.6.b and d. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) type ~~WLA's~~ WLAs shall be used in lieu of a site-specific dilution (Complete Mix Balance Model, Fischer Model, etc.) type ~~WLA's~~ WLAs as they are developed. TMDL type ~~WLA's~~ WLAs account for all known and unknown sources of a pollutant with each known source receiving a certain fraction of the TMDL. TMDL and respective WLA calculation procedures shall be in accordance with "Louisiana Total Maximum Daily Load Technical Procedures". The Louisiana technical procedures document follows EPA protocol expressed in the document, "Guidance for Water Quality-Based Decisions: The TMDL Process", EPA 440/4-91-001 to the extent that is appropriate for Louisiana's hydrologic conditions. Intermittent discharges will be handled on a best professional ~~judgement~~ judgment basis.

¹Technical Support Document for Water Quality-based Toxics Control, EPA Pub. No. 505/2-90-001, PB91-127415, March 1991.